

# Christians Solemn Vow in Baptism EXPLICATED and RENEWED.



It is manifest that a Covenant comprising man's duty, is the Gospel way to Salvation. In the Scriptures we read of mutual engagements between God and his People; of God to them, of them to him. Gather my Saints together unto me, those that have made a Covenant with me, &c. Psal. 50. 5. In hearing the word we learn our duty; in Prayer we call in for help, but Covenanting is the joyning Ordinance that strikes the main stroke betwixt God and the Soul. The sons of the stranger that join themselves to the Lord, and take hold of my Covenant, says God, Isa. 56. 6. A Covenant is a joyning ordinance, the Marriage-knot as it were, wherein God and the Soul are made one. Two shall be as one flesh, but he that is joyned unto the Lord is one spirit, 1 Cor. 6. 16, 17. If thou be't nor a Covenant-spouse, a Covenant-subject, a Covenant-servant, thou art none of his. I entered into a Covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine, Ez. 16. 8. So must thou enter into a Covenant with him, if thou wilt become his. You read of the Book of the Covenant, of the Seal of the Covenant, of the Blood of the Covenant, and of the Mediator of the Covenant. The Book contains it, the Seals confirm it, Blood purchased it. Jesus Christ the Mediator capacitates man for it, makes tender of it, softens the Heart, and bows the sinners Will to take hold thereon, and to engage therein. The Covenant is of Gods making, but man must come and manifest his acceptance and consent. He hath made with me an everlasting Covenant, &c. said David, This is all my salvation and all my desire, &c. 2 Sam. 23. 5. The Lord would not have obedience extorted, that is not for his honour; He will have his people to be a willing people, that love rather than fear should principle them in their obedience, and therefore is graciously pleased to bring all those whom he intends to save, into a blessed league and agreement with himself, called the bond of the Covenant, Exod. 20. 37. We owe all we have and are unto the Lord, and therefore to promise and engage for payment is but reasonable. Reader, this is not the first bond, nor the only bond that is here represented to thee, but let it be a new or renewed bond, let the remembrance of the Vow of God in Baptism upon thee quicken thee unto the duty.

Now therefore set apart some time more than once, to be spent

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Ghost.*

*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world, Amen. Mat. 28. 19, 20.*

*I have sworn and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgements, Psal. 119. 106.*

*In that day shall five Cities in the Land of Egypt speak the Language of Canaan; and swear to the Lord of Hosts, Isa. 19. 18.*

*They shall ask the way to Sion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come let us joyn our selves to the Lord in a perpetual Covenant that shall not be forgotten, Jer. 50. 5.*

*But first they gave their own selves to the Lord, &c. 2 Cor. 8. 5.*

*One shall say, I am the Lords, and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob, and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, &c. Isa. 44. 5.*

*I have sworn by my self, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear, Isa. 45. 23.*

In secret before the Lord, in seeking earnestly his anointing; to shew thee his Covenant, his special assistance to draw thee to it, and gracious acceptance of thee. Consider distinctly what God offers to thee therein, namely, Himself to be thy God again, and his Son thy Mediator to bring thee to him. Oh wonderful grace! when thou hadst forfeited all, and wert no more his by nature than the Devils and damned in Hell, that the blessed God should offer to become thine again through his dear Son Jesus, and with thy whole Heart and Soul accept of this offer, and take the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to be thy only portion and chief good for evermore. Consider also distinctly what it is that God requires in this his Covenant to be consented to, and yielded unfeignedly to him therein; namely, that thou forsake every sin; and give no willing entertainment to any of thy Lords enemies; that thou forsake the World as thy happiness, and be willing to take thy lot with Christ, to run all hazards with him, and to part with all for him, when he shall call thee thereunto; disclaiming all confidence in thy self, and that thou renounce thine own will, and take his will for the Law and rule of all thy thoughts, desires, words and actions: WELCOME THOU! say with that Covenanting people, Exod. 24. 7. All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. But trust not to thine own strength, know thou art to live out of thy self, and fetch all from thy quickning bread and Mediator the Lord Jesus Christ, who hath undertaken the whole for thee with his Father; therefore rely upon his promise of giving grace and strength, whereby thou mayest be enabled to perform thy promise.

Being thus prepared, let there be a day found, wherein as that people did, Deut. 16. 19. Thou wilt avouch the Lord to be thy God; and to walk in his ways, wherein thou wilt bind thy self by most solemn vow and protestation to the Lord; compose thy spirit into the most serious frame, and with all possible reverence, as if the Lord were visibly present before thine eyes, fall down on thy knees, and spreading forth thine hands towards heaven, open thine heart to the Lord in these words, or such like, as follow.

Most Gracious God, for the sufferings of thy Son, I beseech thee accept of thy poor Prodigal, now prostrating himself at thy Footstool. I have fallen from thee by mine iniquity, and am by nature a Child of wrath, and a thousand-fold more the heir of Hell by my wicked practice; but of thine infinite Grace thou hast promised mercy to me in Christ, if I will but turn to thee with all mine heart; therefore upon the Call of thy Gospel I am now come in, and throwing down my weapons, submit my self to thy mercy. And because thou requirest as the condition of my peace with thee, that I should put away mine Idols, and be at Defiance with all thine enemies, which I acknowledge I have wickedly sided with against thee, I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, firmly Covenanting with thee, not to allow my self in any known sin, but conscientiously and idolatrously let out mine affections upon the world. I do here resign up my heart to thee that madest it, humbly protesting before thy Glorious Majesty, that it is the firm resolution of my heart, and that I do unfeignedly desire Grace from thee, that when thou shalt call me hereunto, I may practise this my resolution through thy assistance, to forsake all that is dear unto me in this world; rather than to turn from thee to the ways of sin, and that I will watch against all its temptations, whether of prosperity or adversity, lest they should withdraw my heart from thee. Beseeching thee also to help me against the temptations of Satan, to whose wicked suggestions, I resolve by thy Grace never to yield my self a servant. And because mine own righteousness is but menstruous rags, I renounce all confidence therein, and acknowledge that I am of my self an hopeless, helpless, undone creature, without righteousness or strength. And forasmuch as thou hast of thy bottomless mercy, offered most graciously unto me wretched sinner, to be again my God through Christ, if I would accept thee; I call Heaven and Earth to record this day, that I do here solemnly avouch thee for the Lord my God, and with all possible reverence bowing the neck of my Soul under the feet of thy sacred Majesty, I do here take thee, the Lord, Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for my portion, and chief good, and do give up my self, body and soul, for thy servant, promising and vowing to serve thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life. And since thou hast appointed the Lord Jesus Christ, the only means of coming unto thee, I do here upon the bended knees of my Soul, accept of him as the only new and living way, by which sinners may have access to thee, and do here solemnly joyn my self in a Marriage-Covenant unto him. Oh blessed Jesus, I come to thee hungry and hardly bestead, poor and wretched, and miserable, and blind, and naked, a most loathsome polluted wretch, a guilty condemned Malefactor, unworthy for ever to wash the feet of the servants of my Lord, much more to be solemnly married to the King of Glory; but sith such is thine unparallel'd love, I do here with all my power accept thee, and do take thee for my Head and Husband, for all times and conditions, to love, and to honour, and to obey thee before all others, and this to the death. I embrace thee in all thy Offices, I renounce mine own worthiness, and do here avow thee to be the Lord my Righteousness. I renounce mine own wisdom, and do here take thee for mine only Guide. I renounce mine own will, and take thy will for my Law, and since thou hast told me that I must suffer if I will reign, I do here Covenant with thee, to take my lot as it falls with thee, and by thy Grace assisting, to run all hazards with thee, verily supposing that neither life nor death shall part between me and thee. And because thou hast been pleased to give me thy holy Laws as the Rule of my Life, and the way in which I should walk to thy Kingdom; I do here willingly put my neck under thy yoke, and set my shoulder to thy burden, and subscribing to all thy Laws, as holy, just, and good, I solemnly take them as the rule of my Words, Thoughts, and Actions, promising that though my flesh contradict and rebel, yet I will endeavour to order and govern my whole life according to thy Directions, and will not allow my self in the neglect of any thing that I know to be my Duty. Only because through the frailty of my flesh, I am subject to many failings, I am bold humbly to protest that unallowed miscarriages, contrary to the settled bent and resolution of my heart, shall not make void this Covenant, for so thou hast said. Now Almighty God, searcher of hearts, thou knowest I make this Covenant with thee this day, without any known guile, or reservation, beseeching thee, that if thou espieest any flaw or fallhood therein, thou wouldest discover it to me, and help me to do it aright. And now Glory be to thee, O God the Father, whom I shall be bold from this day forward to look upon as my God and Father, that ever thou shouldst find out such a way for the recovery of undone sinners; Glory be to thee, O God the Son, who hast loved me, and washed me from my sins in thine own Blood, and art now become my Saviour and Redeemer. Glory be to thee, O God the Holy Ghost, who by the finger of thine Almighty power, hast turned about my heart from Sin to God. O dreadful Jehovah! the Lord God Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, thou art now become my Covenant-Friend, and I through thine Infinite Grace am become thy Covenant-servant. Amen. So be it. And the Covenant which I have ratified on Earth, let it be ratified in Heaven.

This Covenant you are advised to make, not only in Heart, but in Word, not only in Word, but in Writing; and that you would with all possible Reverence spread the Writing before the Lord, as if you would present it to him as your Act and Deed. And when you have done this, set your hand to it, as a record of the Transactions that have passed betwixt God and you, and thus you shall have made your Covenant.

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